

1. Name (Indicate preferred name)

Survey no. ^{P6} 68-4-15

historic Riedel House
and/or common

2. Location

street & number 4813 Somerset Street
city, town Riverdale
state Maryland

___ not for publication
___ vicinity of congress'l dist. 5
county Prince George's

3. Classification

Category	Ownership	Status	Present Use
___ district	___ public	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> occupied	___ agriculture ___ museum
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> building(s)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private	___ unoccupied	___ commercial ___ park
___ structure	___ both	___ work in prog.	___ educational <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> priv. res.
___ site	Public Acquis.	Accessible	___ entertainment ___ religious
___ object	___ in process	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> yes: restrict	___ government ___ scientific
	___ being consid.	___ yes: unrest.	___ industrial ___ transport.
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> not applic.	___ no	___ military ___ other

4. Owner of Property (give names and addresses of all owners)

name Mrs. Ilse H. Christoph
street & number 4813 Somerset Street
city, town Riverdale

telephone no.: 864-8908
state, zip code Md.

5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds etc. P.G.C. Courthouse
street & number Main Street
city, town Upper Marlboro

liber 1619
folio 177
state Md.

6. Representation in Existing Historical Surveys

title
date
depository for survey records
city, town

___ federal ___ state ___ county ___ local
state

7. Description

Survey No. PG*68-4-15

Condition

Check One

Check One

☒ excellent

☐ deteriorated

☐ unaltered

☐ original site

☐ good

☐ ruins

☒ altered

☐ moved date of move

☐ fair

☐ unexposed

Prepare both a summary paragraph and a general description of the resource and its various elements as it exists today.

4813 Somerset Street is an attractive one and one-half-story bungalow on a beautifully planted lot on the south side of the street at the corner of Columbia Avenue. The significant feature of the house is a three-sided bay off the front of the house towards Columbia Avenue. A variety of additions make the house a little ungainly from the side. The front porch was enclosed by the present owner. The main entrance is from the side of the enclosed front porch. A multitude of gabled roof-lines can be seen from the north (front) and east sides. This house is a mirror image of 4808 across and down the street.

This is originally a two-bedroom bungalow with the bedrooms at the south-east and south-west corners of the first floor of the house with a bath between them. The present owner made four small bedrooms in the attic by raising the roof in the back. There is an original attic dormer in the front with gabled roof. The entrance porch is now a sitting room with the original front room of the house behind it. The original front room is towards the west side with the dining room towards the east. A slight partition between the two has been removed. There is a door to a central small hall from the original front room. Off this hall is the kitchen towards the east and stairs up towards the west. Straight ahead is the bath.

The east side gable of the house is repeated in smaller form in the gable over the dining room three-sided, projecting bay. The roof line of the back attic addition has a very low pitch. There is a small kitchen addition behind the projecting dining room bay with a shed roof. Another shed roof can be found at the back west corner of the house, which covers a small open porch.

The original, about two-inch wide, horizontal wood siding has been covered with white, aluminum siding, about four inches wide. There is a chimney.

The house was originally heated with a pipeless furnace, which the present owner removed. The heat came up through a grille in the floor of the small central hall.

The moldings in the house are typical plain 1920's moldings around four inches wide. There is a wood floor with inlay covered with a carpet.

The original front porch had two doric columns supporting the roof. The column pedestals are stuccoed. The front porch is enclosed. The side entrance steps are concrete with a black, wrought iron rail. The foundation is stuccoed about three feet high.

The windows of the original house are double hung with four vertical lights in the upper pane. The woodwork around the windows is white.

A picket fence surrounds the property. Mrs. Christoph owns the house next door as well and has appropriated some land from this house for a driveway to a garage in back. Her lot may, therefore, appear larger than it is. There is a covered up well in the garden.

8. Significance

Survey No. P6 * 68-4-15

Period	Areas of Significance - Check and justify below					
<input type="checkbox"/> prehistoric	<input type="checkbox"/> archeol.-prehist.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> comm. plann.	<input type="checkbox"/> landsc. arch.	<input type="checkbox"/> religion		
<input type="checkbox"/> 1400-1499	<input type="checkbox"/> archeol.-hist.	<input type="checkbox"/> conservation	<input type="checkbox"/> law	<input type="checkbox"/> science		
<input type="checkbox"/> 1500-1599	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture	<input type="checkbox"/> economics	<input type="checkbox"/> literature	<input type="checkbox"/> sculpture		
<input type="checkbox"/> 1600-1699	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> education	<input type="checkbox"/> military	<input type="checkbox"/> social/		
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> art	<input type="checkbox"/> engineering	<input type="checkbox"/> music	<input type="checkbox"/> /humanitar.		
<input type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input type="checkbox"/> commerce	<input type="checkbox"/> explor./settl.	<input type="checkbox"/> philosophy	<input type="checkbox"/> theater		
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1900-	<input type="checkbox"/> communications	<input type="checkbox"/> industry	<input type="checkbox"/> politics/	<input type="checkbox"/> transport.		
		<input type="checkbox"/> invention	<input type="checkbox"/> /government	<input type="checkbox"/> other		

Specific dates 1920 - 1923

Builder/Architect

Check: Applicable Criteria: ☐ A ☐ B ☐ C ☐ D

and/or

Applicable Exception: ☐ A ☐ B ☐ C ☐ D ☐ E ☐ F ☐ G

Level of Significance: ☐ national ☐ state ☐ local

Prepare both a summary paragraph of significance and a general statement of history and support.

The Riadel house is an attractive bungalow but has too many additions for the original shape to be easily recognizable. As it seems originally identical to 4808 Somerset Street. The house has some interesting design details, which makes me think it could be a pattern or mail order house. The house was built between 1920 and 1923 when bungalows were popular in Riverdale. The house has a visible position being located on a corner lot and adds charm to the neighborhood.

The Town of Riverdale became known in 1889 as Riverdale Park, when the subdivision plat was recorded by the Riverdale Park Company. The new planned community with tree-lined streets was located on land previously called Riversdale Plantation, which had been owned by the Calvert family. The Baltimore & Ohio Railroad cuts the community in half, which at the end of the 19th century meant a perfect location for a railroad suburb. Riverdale is about 7 miles from the center of the District of Columbia. The early houses were built in different vernacular Victorian styles, some with elaborate Queen Anne details. There were a few larger houses, while most were average sized. The bungalow style took over around 1920. Most houses were built of wood with clapboard siding, only a few were built of brick. The community included two churches, a school and a train station.

8. Significance (cont'd)

Survey No. P6 * 68-4-15

The house stands on lot 7 in block 16 in Riverdale. As mentioned earlier the present owner also owns lot 6 in block 16 and has appropriated a strip of adjoining land from this property, but this has been done unofficially. (1)

This house has some interesting design details which makes me believe that it was not just a simple contractor's house, but possibly a pattern book or mail order house. There is an interesting profusion of different sized gabled roofs; the upper window panes are divided into four vertical lights; and the inlay stripe in the wood floor. It is not a one of a kind house, as the 4808 Somerset seems to be identical but a mirror image. I have not been able to establish this to be a mail order house.

The lot size in the deeds vary from the lot size on the plat. (2) A survey was done in 1949 by R.L. Gesford when the Riedel's sold the house which established the lot's size as being 60 x 147.6 feet and not 150 feet as indicated on Plat JWB 5 688.

When the Riedels bought the property from the Riverdale Park Company on July 15, 1919, the lot size was indicated as being 60 x 176.6 feet. (3) The typical covenant accompanied this deed. (4)

The house was built between 1920 and 1923. (5) It was assessed at \$2,750 which seems quite high, as no outhouse is indicated on the Sanborn map. (6)

Notes:

1. No trace of this in any deed. The owner told me about the strip of land.
2. Chain of title
3. Ibid
4. Appendix A with covenant enclosed
5. 1920 - 1923 Assessment Book for P.G. County for the 19th District.
6. 1924 Sanborn map. On reserve.

9. Major Bibliographical References

Survey no.: PG #68-4-15

Chain of Title enclosed.

Notes under Item # 8

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of nominated property 8,856 sq. ft., lot 7, block 16, Riverdale, Md.
Quadrangle name Washington East Section B Quadrangle scale

Verbal boundry description and justification

List all states and counties for properties overlapping state or county boundaries.

state	code	county	code
state	code	county	code

11. Form Prepared By

name/title	Lena Gill, Master of Architecture Candidate, Catholic University	date	March 28, 1990
organization	George Washington University	telephone	965-2327
street & number		state	D.C.
city or town	Washington		

This form is a copy of the Maryland Historical Trust State Historic Sites Inventory Form. It is not identical as it has no heading and the UTM references have been removed from item 10. This copy is prepared by Lena Gill.